



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



Osley C. Ulloa, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Examiner

DEATH INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Medical Examiner Case Number: 2025-14252

Decedent Name: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

Date of Injury: Unknown

Place of injury: Unknown

Pronounced date/time: 09/08/2025 11:00:00 AM

Date of examination: 09/10/2025

Medical Examiner Investigator: Tapia, Karen

Deputy Medical Examiner: Dr. Nam, Ansel

Supervisor Deputy Medical Examiner: Dr. Ho, Grant

Forensic Technician: Garcia, Daniel

CAUSE OF DEATH A: MULTIPLE PENETRATING INJURIES

MANNER OF DEATH: HOMICIDE

HOW INJURY OCCURRED: WITH OBJECT(S)

Dr. Nam, Ansel

Completed On: 12/09/2025 1:32 PM

Dr. Ho, Grant

Deputy Medical Examiner

Approved On: 12/09/2025 1:30 PM

Families of the decedent please call (323) 343-0520 should you have any questions after reviewing this material.

Medical Report Summary

- I. Severe postmortem changes
- II. Two penetrating wounds of the torso
 - A. Right abdomen with injury to liver
 - B. Left chest with penetration of underlying intercostal space and cortical disruption of adjacent ribs
- III. Other findings
 - A. Bilateral dismemberment of upper and lower extremities
 - B. Multiple additional skin defects
- IV. See separate toxicology report

Summary and Opinion Narrative

Per Medical Examiner investigator's report, this 15-year-old female, Celeste Abigail Rivas Hernandez, was found dismembered in a state of decomposition inside of a car trunk on September 8, 2025. Death was pronounced at the scene.

Autopsy examination was limited by extensive postmortem changes. There are two penetrating wounds of the torso with smooth edges that may represent sharp force injuries. The wound on the upper abdomen penetrates the liver and the wound on the left chest penetrates one of the left intercostal spaces, with disruption of the adjacent ribs' cortical surfaces. The left lung appears intact.

The bilateral upper and lower extremities show full thickness dismemberment. Multiple other skin and soft tissue defects are present without apparent associated internal injuries; the etiology of these defects is not clearly apparent due to severe postmortem changes.

Postmortem toxicology performed on liver tissue shows the presence of a low level of ethanol, which may be due to postmortem changes or ingestion, and does not appear to be contributory to the cause of death.

Given the history and circumstances as currently known by me in the setting of the findings by examination, ancillary studies, and in the absence of other definitive causes of death, the cause of death is multiple penetrating injuries. The manner of death is classified as homicide.

Decedent Identification

- Two unique patient identifiers reviewed
 - Same As Decedent Name
 - Decedent Name: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL
 - Case Num: 2025-14252

Phenotypic Sex

- Female

Type of examination

- Full

Form Sections

- Decedent Identification
 - Prior Postmortem Procedures
 - External Examination
 - Evidence Of Traumatic Injury
 - Internal Examination
 - Cardiovascular System
 - Respiratory System
 - Digestive System
 - Urinary Tract
 - Female Reproductive Tract
 - Endocrine System
 - Lymphoreticular System
 - Musculoskeletal System
 - Head And Central Nervous System
 - Special Senses
 - Examination Procedures And Ancillary Testing
- Exam Start: 09/10/2025 08:57

Prior Postmortem Procedures

- Radiology Reviewed: Yes
 - CT ScansInterpretation: CT scan reviewed and is consistent with autopsy examination.
- Organ/Tissue Donation: No
- Mortuary Preparation: No

External Examination**General**

- Appropriately-Developed

Race

- Hispanic

Phenotypic Sex

- Female

Body Weight and Height

- Weight: 71 lb
- Height: 62 in
- BMI: 12.9 lb/in²

Extremities

Other Extremities: See "Evidence of Traumatic Injury"

Skin

Other Skin Findings:
- See "Evidence of Traumatic Injury"

- See "Postmortem Changes"

- Scars: None

Tattoos

- Present
 - Finger(s), Right
 - 2nd medial
- Description: Text: "Sh..."

Hair

- Long

Facial hair

- None

Hair color

- Black

Eye Color

- Other
- Description: Cannot assess due to severe postmortem changes.

Sclerae

- Other
- Description: Cannot assess due to severe postmortem changes.

Conjunctival Petechiae

- Other
- Description: Cannot assess due to severe postmortem changes.

Facial petechiae (i.e. non-conjunctival)

Other: Cannot assess due to severe postmortem changes.

Ears

- Unremarkable

Nose

- Unremarkable

Oral cavity

- Dentition: Good Dentition
- Dentition Description: Orthodontic hardware present and in place on the upper and lower teeth.
- Frenulae and Mucosae: Intact

Neck

- Normal

Chest

- Normal

Abdomen

- Normal

Back

- Unremarkable

External genitalia

- Female

Evidence of medical intervention/therapy at examination

- None

Postmortem Changes

- Livor mortis: Indiscernible
- Rigor mortis: Absent

External decomposition changes

- Skin color change
Description: Dark brown
- Drying
- Insect activity
Description: Multiple insect larvae present.
- Foul odor

Other External Decomp Changes: The head is partially skeletonized with an absent left eye. There is liquefaction of the soft tissues.

Internal Organs and Tissue

- Postmortem softening/crepitation/discoloration
 - Marked

Evidence of traumatic injury

Other Traumatic Injuries:

Disclaimer for Labeling/Measuring Wounds:

The order in which the injuries are described is for descriptive purposes only and is not intended to imply the sequence of injuries. All medical examiner diagrams are not intended to be facsimiles nor are they drawn to scale.

Diagrams Used For Injuries: Form 20 (1 of 2)

SKIN DEFECT (3/4 inch):

Entrance: Involving the right abdomen, 21 inches below the top of the head and 1 inch right of midline, is a 3/4 inch length penetrating wound with smooth edges; the wound is oriented in the 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock directions.

Path: The wound track sequentially perforates the skin and soft tissue of the right abdomen, and the liver (1-1/2 x 1/4 ovoid defect).

Depth: The wound track has an approximate depth of 1-1/2 inches.

Direction: Front to back.

SKIN DEFECT (9/16 inch):

Entrance: Involving the lateral left lower chest, 15 inches below the top of the head and 6 inches left of midline, is a 9/16 inch penetrating wound with smooth edges.

Path: The wound track sequentially perforates the skin and soft tissue of the lateral left lower chest, left intercostal space, and enters the left chest cavity.

Depth: The wound track has a depth of at least 2 inches.

Direction: Left to right.

Associated findings: The adjacent ribs show disruption of the cortical bone.

OTHER FINDINGS:

Diagrams Used: Form 20 (2 of 2)

Multiple skin defects are also present over the torso, with many perforating the skin and soft tissue without identifiable soft tissue hemorrhage or associated internal organ injuries. They range from 5/16 inch to 1-3/4 inches in greatest dimension. Multiple superficial linear abrasions are also noted on the right dorsal hand.

The upper and lower extremities show full thickness dismemberment with relatively flat cut surfaces through the soft tissue and bone. No discernible hemorrhage is identified at these sites. Multiple fragments of blue plastic material are found embedded in the cut surfaces; representative fragments are collected by Medical Examiner criminalists and submitted to the Evidence Department on September 8, 2025. The right upper extremity is dismembered 9 inches from the top of the shoulder. The left upper extremity is dismembered 6 inches from the top of the shoulder. The left fourth and fifth fingers are amputated. The right lower extremity is dismembered in two places- one site is 12 inches from the top of the leg, and the other is 10 inches from the bottom of the heel. The left lower extremity is dismembered in two places- one site is 9 inches from the top of the leg, and the other is 15 inches from the bottom of the heel.

Internal Examination**Body Cavities**

- Organs in Normal Anatomic Positions: Yes

Right Pleural Cavity

- Smooth

Right Pleural Fluid

- None

Left Pleural Cavity

- Smooth

Left Pleural Fluid

- None

Peritoneal Fluid

- None

Peritoneal Surfaces

- Smooth

Cardiovascular System

- Heart Weight: 100 gr

Shape

- Usual

Pericardium

- Intact
- No Adhesions

Pericardial Fluid

- None

Epicardial Surface

- Smooth

Coronary Ostia

- Normally Positioned
- %Stenosis: None

Foramen Ovale

- Closed

Septal Defects

- None

Coronary Arteries

- Coronary Dominance: Right Dominant
- Coronary Artery Atherosclerosis: None
- Coronary Arteries Follow Normal Anatomic Course: Yes

Left Anterior Descending Artery (LAD)

- %Stenosis: None

Left Circumflex Artery (LCX)

- %Stenosis: None

Right Coronary Artery (RCA)

- %Stenosis: None

Chamber Dilation

- No

Heart Valves**Description**

- Leaflets Thin/Delicate
- Absent of Vegetations
- Absent of Atheromas
- No Annulus Calcification

Chordae Tendinae

- Thin

Myocardium

- Usual Consistency

Endocardium

- Smooth and Glistening

Thickness (not including trabeculations)

- Left ventricular free wall: 0.7 cm
- Right ventricular free wall: 0.3 cm
- Septum: 0.4 cm

Pulmonary Artery

- Appropriate Caliber
- Normal Configuration

Ascending Aorta

- Appropriate Caliber Without Tortuosity or Widening
- Normal Configuration
- No Atherosclerosis

Major Arteries Arising From Aortic Arch

- Normal Configuration
- Patent

Thoracic Aorta

- Appropriate Caliber Without Tortuosity or Widening
- Normal Configuration
- No Atherosclerosis

Abdominal Aorta

- Appropriate Caliber Without Tortuosity or Widening
- Normal Configuration
- No Atherosclerosis

Venae Cavae

- Patent
- Thin-Walled

Respiratory System**Epiglottis, Larynx, Trachea**

- Absent of Lesions
- Unobstructed

Lung Weight

- Right Lung Weight: 100 gr
- Left Lung Weight: 100 gr

Right Lung Parenchyma

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Left Lung Parenchyma

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Bronchi

- Patent

Bronchial Mucosa

- Smooth and Glistening

Digestive System**Tongue**

- Absent of Trauma and Lesions

Esophageal Mucosa

- Intact

Stomach

- Contents: Absent
- Pill fragments: Absent

Gastric Mucosa

- Intact, with usual rugal folds without ulcers or mass lesions

Appendix

- Present
- Other: Fecalith present in lumen. No perforation identified.

Small Intestine

- Without Significant Pathologic Findings

Large Intestine

- Without Significant Pathologic Findings

Liver Weight

- Liver Weight: 225 gr

Liver Capsule

Other: See "Evidence of Traumatic Injury."

Liver Parenchyma

- Consistency: Soft
- Color: Red-Brown
- Cirrhosis: Absent

Gallbladder

- Present
 - Normal
 - Bile Volume: None
 - Calculi: Absent

Pancreas

Other: Unremarkable

Other Digestive System Findings: Severe postmortem changes noted.

Urinary Tract

- Right Kidney Weight: 50 gr
- Left Kidney Weight: 50 gr

Kidneys

- Surfaces: Smooth
- Color: Red-brown
- Corticomedullary Junctions

Other Corticomedullary Junctions: Severe postmortem changes noted

- Calculi: Absent

Bladder

- Absent of Mucosal Lesions
- Volume and Color of Urine: Empty

Other Urinary Tract Findings: Severe postmortem changes noted.

Female Reproductive Tract**Uterus**

- Present and not enlarged, and without endometrial lesions and hemorrhage

Ovaries and Fallopian Tubes

- Appropriate For Age

Vagina

- Without Lesions

Breast Tissue

- Without Lesions

Other Female Reproductive Tract Findings: Severe postmortem changes noted.

Endocrine System**Adrenal parenchyma**

- Autolyzed

Thyroid

- Present
 - Color: Pale
 - Appearance: Symmetric

Pituitary

Other: Not identified due to severe postmortem changes.

Lymphoreticular System

- Spleen Weight: 50 gr

Spleen

- Smooth, Intact, With Dark Red Parenchyma

Bone Marrow

- Dark Red and Trabeculated

Lymph Nodes

- Not enlarged

Thymus

Other: Not identified due to severe postmortem changes.

Other Lymphoreticular System Findings: Severe postmortem changes noted.

Musculoskeletal System**Bony Framework**

- Normal

Vertebral column and Ribs

- Normal Curvature

Ribs

Other: See "Evidence of Traumatic Injury"

Vertebral Bodies

- No Fractures

Head And Central Nervous System**Scalp**

Other: Predominantly skeletonized.

Calvarium

- Normal thickness

Brain Weight

- Brain weight: 600 gr

Dura

- Normal without subdural fluid collection

Leptomeninges

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Cerebral Hemispheres

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Base of Brain

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Circle of Willis

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Cerebellum

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Brainstem

Other: Severe postmortem changes

Spinal cord

- Not Examined

Special Senses**Eyes**

- Not Dissected

Middle Ears

- Not Dissected

Examination Procedures and Ancillary Testing**Photography Taken**

- Yes
 - Photos taken prior to and during the examination

Special Dissection

- **Layer-wise Anterior Neck Dissection**
 - Trauma: No
 - Strap Muscle Hemorrhage: No
 - Carotid Sheath Hemorrhage: No
 - Thyroid Cartilage Injury: No
 - Hyoid Bone Fracture: No
 - Cervical Neck Injury: No

Clothing Reviewed by DME

- No

Tissue retention

- Stock Jar(s)
 - Quantity: 2

Histology Key

- Applicable
 - Microscopic Diagnoses and Description:
 - DIAGNOSIS:

LIVER:

- Severe postmortem changes

Slide #1

- Tissue Type: Liver
 - Microscopic Description: Representative section of liver shows extensive autolysis that precludes further evaluation.

Additional Samples Taken

- Finger, Typing - Nails, Liver, Jaw Bone, Typing - Bone

Ancillary testing

- Radiology
 - Please see Prior Postmortem Procedures Radiology section for details.*
- Toxicology
- Histology

Attendee Organization	Autopsy Attendee	Badge/Serial Number
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LAPD ROBBERY HOMICIDE DIVISION	Detective Byers	
LAPD Robbery homicide	Detective Farell	



Dr. Nam, Ansel
Completed On: 12/09/2025 1:32 PM



Dr. Ho, Grant
Deputy Medical Examiner
Approved On: 12/09/2025 1:30 PM



Department of Medical Examiner, County of Los Angeles
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES
1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033
Laboratory Analysis Summary Report



Ho, Grant M.D.

Deputy Medical Examiner
1104 North Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033

☒ PendingTox

Case Number 2025-14252 **Decedent:** RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>DRUG</u>	<u>RESULT</u>	<u>ANALYST</u>
Alcohol Quantitation/Confirmation				
Liver				
	Alcohol-GC/FID-HS	Ethanol	* Present	L. Gil de Montes
Drug Screen				
Liver				
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Benzodiazepines	PP	S. Owen
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Cocaine and Metabolites	ND	S. Owen
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Fentanyl	ND	S. Owen
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Methamphetamine & MDMA	PP	S. Owen
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Opiates: Codeine & Morphine	ND	S. Owen
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Opiates: Hydrocodone & Hydromorphone	ND	S. Owen
	ELISA-Immunoassay	Phencyclidine	ND	S. Owen
Drug Screen/Confirmation				
Liver				
	Bases-GC/NPD &/or MS	Basic Drugs	ND	J. Babin
	Benzos (Free)-LC/MS/MS	Benzodiazepines	ND	M. Liebl
	LC/MS/MS	Designer Opioids	** Inc.	C. Castellino
	Sympath. Amines-GC/MS	Amphetamine	ND	J. Posada
	Sympath. Amines-GC/MS	Ephedrine	ND	J. Posada
	Sympath. Amines-GC/MS	Methamphetamine	** Inc.	J. Posada
	Sympath. Amines-GC/MS	Methylenedioxymphetamine (MDA)	ND	J. Posada
	Sympath. Amines-GC/MS	Methylenedioxymphetamine (MDMA)	ND	J. Posada
	Sympath. Amines-GC/MS	Pseudoephedrine	ND	J. Posada

Case Number 2025-14252 Decedent: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

SPECIMEN SERVICE DRUG RESULT ANALYST

NOTE: AKA Jane Doe #550. *Specimen may not be Title 17 compliant. **Inconclusive due to interfering substance(s).

Legend:	ND	Not Detected	SNS	Specimen Not Suitable
g Grams	ng/g	Nanograms per Gram	TNP	Test Not Performed
g% Gram Percent	ng/mL	Nanograms per Milliliter	ug	Micrograms
Inc. Inconclusive	PP	Presumptive Positive	ug/g	Micrograms per Gram
mg Milligrams	QNS	Quantity Not Sufficient	ug/mL	Micrograms per Milliliter

The alcohol analysis was performed in accordance to California Code of Regulations "Title 17" compliance by a qualified analyst in the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, Forensic Laboratories Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner.

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) provides only a preliminary analytical result that is contingent upon a confirmatory test. A "presumptive positive" (PP) signifies a detection of a drug class and must be confirmed by additional testing for true identification and/or quantitation of specific drug(s) present in the specimen.

Per the Department's Evidence Retention Policy, the blood specimen(s) will be retained for one year (minimum) and all other specimens six months (minimum) from Postmortem Exam.

Final Review By: Sarah Buxton de Quintana
Sarah Buxton de Quintana
Supervising Criminalist II

Digitally signed by Sarah
Buxton de Quintana
Date: 2025.11.23 12:12:09
+0800'

The above results relate only to the items sampled and tested and have been technically and administratively reviewed and are the opinions and conclusions of the analysis noted. The final review has been certified by the noted Toxicologist to ensure that all standard operating procedures were followed as set by the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, Forensic Sciences Laboratory Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner.

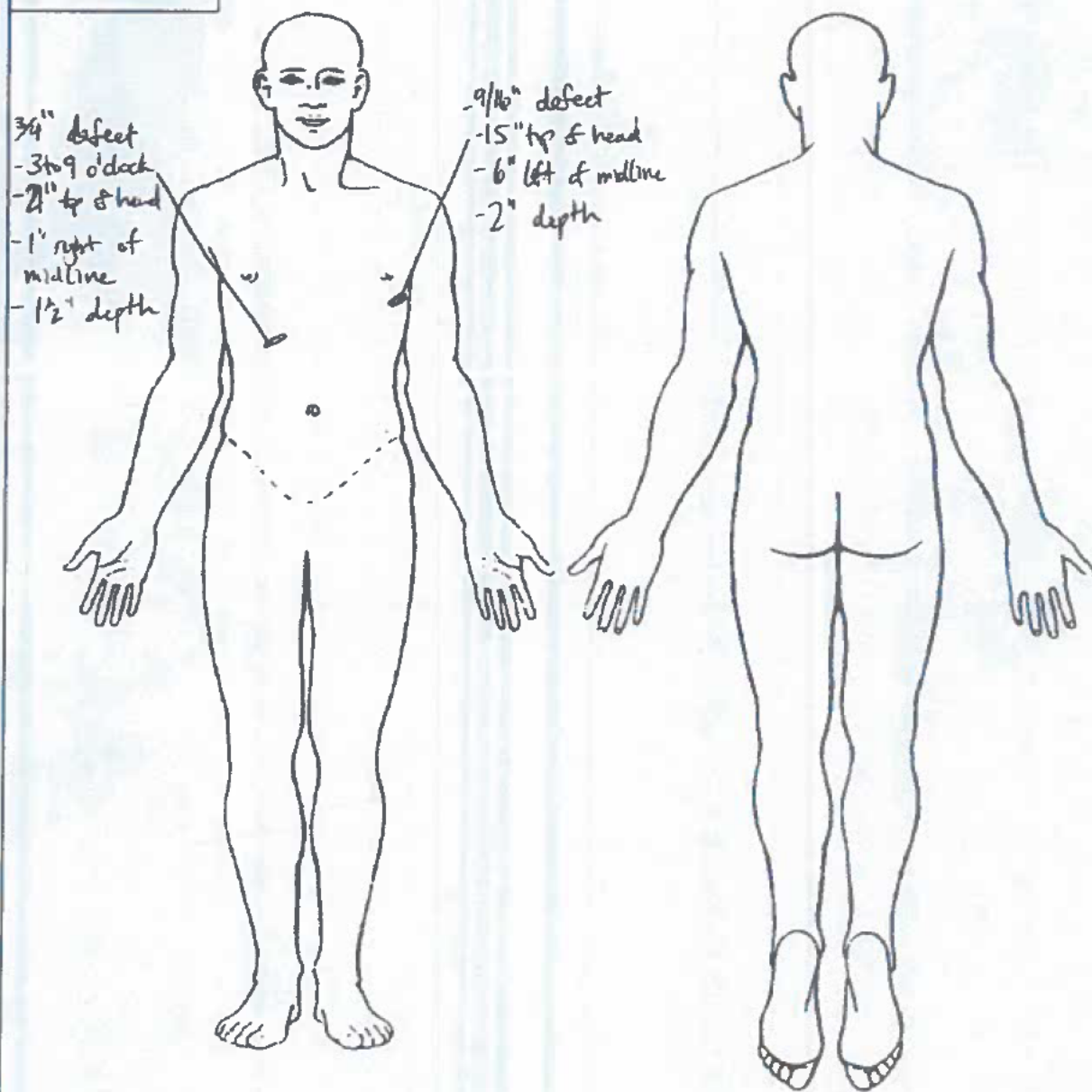


20

Decedent: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

Case Number: 2025-14252

1 of 2



Date: 09/10/2025 08:57:00 AM

Dr. Ho, Grant 9/10/25
Supervisor DMEDr. Nam, Ansel
Medical Examiner

20

Decedent: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

Case Number: 2025-14252

2 of 2

ling, black

partially skeletonized

globe with extensive postmortem changes

globe not present

intact, hardware present

5/16" defect

9" top of shoulder

6" top of shoulder

5/8" defect

Multiple defects 1 to 1 3/4"

9" top of leg

tooth: "Shhh..."

absent

absent

12" top of leg

16" bottom of heel

15" bottom of heel

Multiple linear abrasions

2025-14252

2025-14252
Re, Jane

Date: 09/10/2025 08:57:00 AM

[Signature]
7/10/25

Dr. Ho, Grant
Supervisor DME

[Signature]

Dr. Nam, Ansel
Medical Examiner

16

Decedent: DOE #550, JANE

Case Number: 2025-14252

EXTERNAL EXAM

Sex
Race
Age
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Sclera
Teeth
Mouth
Tongue
Nose
Chest
Breasts
Abdomen
Scar
Genitals
Edema
Skin
Decubitus
HEART WL 108
Pericardium
Hypertrophy
Dilation
Muscle
Valves
Coronaries

RV 0.3
Septum 0.4
LV 0.7
TV/PV/MV/AV:

AORTA**VESSELS****LUNGS WL**

R 100
L 100

Adhesions
Fluid
Atelectasis
Oedema
Congestion
Consolidation
Bronchi
Nodes

PHARYNX**TRACHEA****THYROID****THYMUS****LARYNX****HYOID****ABDOMINAL WALL FAT****PERITONEUM**

Fluid
Adhesions

LIVER WL 225

Capsule
Lobules *ant defect*
Fibros
GB
Calculus
Bile ducts

SPLEEN WL 50

Color
Consistency
Capsule
Malpiment

PANCREAS**ADRENALS****KIDNEYS WL**

R 50
L 50

Capsule
Cortex
Vessels
Pelvis
Ureters

BLADDER**GENITALIA**

Prostate
Testes
Uterus ✓
Tubes
Ovaries ✓

ESOPHAGUS**STOMACH**

Contents

DUOD. & SM. INT.**APPENDIX fecalith****LARGE INT.****ABDOM. NODES****SKELETON**

Spine
Marrow
Rib Cage
Long bones
Pelvis

SCALP**CALVARIUM****BRAIN WL 600**

Dura
Fluid
Ventricles
Vessels
Middle ears
Other

PITUITARY**SPINAL CORD****TOXICOLOGY SPECIMENS****SECTIONS FOR HISTOPATHOLOGY**

1) (w)

MICROBIOLOGY**DIAGRAMS****X-RAYS****OTHER PROCEDURES****GROSS IMPRESSIONS**

Date: 09/10/2025

Dr. Ho, Grant
Supervisor DME

Dr. Nam, Ansel
Medical Examiner



"Enriching Lives"

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



Osley C. Ulloa, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Examiner

Case Number: 2025-14252 - Decedent's Name: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1

APPARENT MODE

Homicide

CASE NO
2025-14252

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
Victim of Crime

CRYPT
T-117

LAST, FIRST MIDDLE
RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

AKA

2025-550

SEX	RACE APPEARS	DOB	AGE	HGT	WGT	EYES	HAIR	TEETH	FACIAL HAIR	ID VIEW	CONDITION
Female	Hispanic/Latino		15 y	62 in	71 lb	unknown	Black	Natural	No	No	DECOMPOSED

MARK TYPE

MARK LOCATION

MARK DESCRIPTION

Tattoo

Right Index Finger

Right Index Finger: "Shhh..."

RELATIONSHIP
Mother

PENDING BY

DATE
9/16/2025

TIME

RELATIONSHIP
Father

PENDING BY

DATE
9/16/2025

TIME

SSN

DL ID

STATE

ID METHOD
Dental X-rays

L.A. #

MAIN #

CI #

FBI #

MILITARY #

POB

IDENTIFIED BY NAME(PRINT)
Law, Cathy

RELATIONSHIP

PHONE

DATE
9/16/2025

TIME
08:15:00

PLACE OF DEATH/PLACE FOUND
Vehicle

ADDRESS OR LOCATION
1015 North Mansfield Avenue

CITY
Los Angeles

ZIP
90038

PLACE OF INJURY

AT WORK
No

DATE

TIME

LOCATION OR ADDRESS

ZIP

DOD
9/8/2025

TIME
11:00:00

FOUND OR PRONOUNCED BY
Klohr, Detective

OTHER AGENCY INV OFFICER
LAPD ROBBERY HOMICIDE DIVISION

PHONE
213-486-6890

REPORT No
25-168557

TRANSPORTED BY
Aparicio, Michael

DATE
9/8/2025

TIME
19:34:00

FINGERPRINTS? Yes

CLOTHING Yes

PAR PT No

MORTUARY

MED EV No

INVEST PHOTOS# 110

SEAL TYPE NOT SEALED

HOSP RPT No

PHYS EV Yes

PROPERTY? Yes

HOSP CHART No

SUICIDE NOTE No

PF NO



"Enriching Lives"

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



Oliver C. Ulloa, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Examiner

Case Number: 2025-14252 - Decedent's Name: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

SYNOPSIS

2-hour autopsy notification request by LAPD Robbery Homicide Detective Byers.

Information is preliminary and subject to change due to the ongoing investigation. According to the reported information, on 08/26/2025, a passerby reported an abandoned black Tesla that was parked on the street to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. LADOT employees cited the vehicle on 09/03/2025, impounded it on 09/05/2025, and towed it [REDACTED]. On 09/08/2025, a manager noticed a foul smell emanating from the vehicle and reported it to Auto Detective, Khlor. Detective Khlor inspected the vehicle's front trunk and found a large, black, zippered body bag with handles. He partially unzipped the bag, revealing a human torso and the back of a head. He pronounced death on scene at 1100 hours, without medical intervention. There is no person of interest in custody at this time, and charges are pending. No weapon recovered.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



Osley C. Ulloa, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Examiner

Case Number: 2025-14252 - Decedent's Name: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Investigator's Narrative

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Information Sources:

LAPD West Bureau Homicide Detective Lamberti, 213-382-9470; Report # 25-168557

Investigation:

On 09/08/2025, at 1347 hours, Det. Lamberti reported a homicide death to Medical Examiner Clerk Celine Guzman.

Acting Watch Commander E. Burns assigned me this field death investigation at 1404 hours.

I confirmed the Criminalist response with Criminalist Anthony Martinez at approximately 1430 hours.

I arrived on scene at 1519 hours and cleared the scene at 1828 hours.

Senior Forensic Attendant M. Aparicio transported the decedent to the Department of Medical Examiner.

Location:

Location of Death: 1015 North Mansfield Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90038 County Los Angeles

Informant/Witness Statements:

I spoke with LAPD West Bureau Homicide Det. Lamberti on scene. He prefaced his statement by informing me that this case was being actively transferred to LAPD Robbery Homicide Division Det. Byers #35673. Information is preliminary and subject to change due to the ongoing investigation. He told me that on 08/26/2025, a passerby called the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to report an abandoned black Tesla parked on the street. LADOT employees cited the vehicle on 09/03/2025, impounded it on 09/05/2025, and towed it [REDACTED]. On 09/08/2025, a manager noticed a foul odor emanating from the vehicle and reported it to Auto Detective Khlor #32866. Detective Khlor inspected the car's front trunk and discovered a large, black, zippered body bag with handles. He partially opened the bag to reveal a human torso and the back of a head. Due to obvious signs of death, he pronounced death on scene at 1100 hours, without medical intervention. There is no person of interest in custody at this time, and charges are pending. No weapon recovered. Decedent's identity is unknown.

Scene Description:

The location was on the second story of a police garage impound lot, situated on the northwest corner of North Mansfield Avenue and Romaine Street. There are multiple miscellaneous vehicles parked throughout the lot. The decedent was lying inside the front trunk of a Tesla [REDACTED].

The Tesla was parked on the southeast quadrant of the lot, facing east. The front trunk was open, and yellow police tape surrounded the nearest vehicles, including the Tesla.

From a distance, a black body bag was visible and exposed inside the front trunk of the car.

I did not observe any illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol on scene.

No weapons were located during my scene examination.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033

Case Number: 2025-14252 - Decedent's Name: RIVAS HERNANDEZ, CELESTE ABIGAIL



Osley C. Ulloa, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Examiner

Body Examination:

I observed the decedent's posterior head and torso lying prone, in a body bag inside the front trunk of a Tesla. Her head was oriented towards the north. She appeared of indeterminate age and ethnicity with dark hair and natural teeth.

She was wearing a tube top, underwear, leggings and socks. I observed multiple holes in the front and the back of the tube top.

She was missing both arms above the elbows and both legs above the knees.

Underneath the body bag was a black trash bag that contained the decedent's apparent compiled bilateral arms and legs. They appear to have been dismembered into several fragments.

The decedent was in an advanced state of decomposition demonstrated by foul odor, discoloration, liquefaction, insect activity, partial skeletonization, and skin slippage.

I noted an approximate 1-inch linear defect on her abdomen and a circular defect on her left flank.

The left ring and pinky fingers appear to have been mutilated, and I did not locate them during my scene examination.

She has a tattoo that reads "Shhh...." on the inside of her right index finger.

I did not observe any other discernable scars or tattoos.

Identification:

The decedent was not ID viewable due to decomposition of the face and was not live scanned due to waterlogged fingers. She was assigned Jane Doe #550.

Per Inv. Magdaleno, on 09/16/2025 at 0815 hours, Dr. Law positively identified the decedent as Celeste Abigail Rivas Hernandez [REDACTED] via dental radiograph comparison.

Next of Kin Notification:

Per Inv. Magdaleno, Detective Joshua Byers notified the decedent's parents [REDACTED] of the death via telephone on 09/16/2025.

Tissue Donation:

Not addressed.

Autopsy Notification:

Detective Byers requested a 2-hour autopsy notification. See case notes for confidential contact information.

Evidence:

Leggings collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:06:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

Underwear collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 17:00:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

Socks x2 collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:06:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

Shirt collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 17:04:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

Body Bag collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:25:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

Body Bag Handles (Top and Bottom) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:16:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

Body Bag Side Handles collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:19:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar



"Enriching Lives"

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Hair Kit collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 19:43:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Insects collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 16:51:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Swab of Handle (Top) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 16:09:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Swab of Handles (sides) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 16:06:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Swabs of Zipper (Bottom) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 16:04:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Swabs of Zipper (Top) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 16:14:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Toenail - DNA Ref collected on 2025-09-17, at approximately 09:46:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Hardy, Winters
Trace #1 (Blue plastic pieces on right leg) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 17:20:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Trace #2 (Blue plastic pieces on legs and arms) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 17:52:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Trash Bag collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:25:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Zipper (Bottom) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:13:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar
Zipper (Top) collected on 2025-09-08, at approximately 18:12:00 hours - Criminalist - NonTox - Pleitez, Oscar

K. Tapia

K. Weber

Investigator: Tapia, Karen

Inv. Report Date/Time: 9/14/2025 at 13:26:47.8900000

Reviewed By: Weber, Kelsie

Reviewed Date/Time: 1/9/2026 at 13:03:32.3900000



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER
1104 N MISSION RD. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Examiner

Forensic Science Laboratories
Criminalist Report

ME# 2025-14252
Rivas Hernandez, Celeste Abigail

Investigating Agency: Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Robbery Homicide Division
Investigating Officer: J. Byers #35673
Agency Report Number: 25-168557

Timeline:

- On September 8, 2025, at 1352 hours, I received the request from Medical Examiner (ME) Sr. Criminalist A. Martinez for evidence collection at a scene.
- At 1458 hours, I departed the Forensic Science Center (FSC) for the scene with Sr. Criminalist A. Martinez.
- At 1527 hours, we arrived at the scene.
- At 1604 hours, I began processing evidence.
- At 1840 hours, we departed the scene.
- At 1916 hours, we arrived back at the FSC.
- At 1943 hours, I completed evidence collection.

Additional personnel involved:

Medical Examiner personnel:

- Investigator K. Tapia (collected personal property, examined the body, and photographed clothing)
- Sr. Criminalist A. Martinez (took most of the notes)
- Sr. Forensic Attendant M. Aparicio (transported decedent to the FSC)

LAPD personnel:

- Detective J. Byers #35673
- Photographer M.C. Sallaberry #N3637

Scene Description:

The scene occurred in a parking structure at 1015 North Mansfield Ave. Los Angeles, CA, 90038. On the second floor of the parking structure was a black Tesla Model X with a Texas license plate [REDACTED]. The Tesla was parked facing east, with multiple cars nearby. The decedent was in an enclosed storage compartment located under the hood at the front of the Tesla, known as the frunk.

Decedent Description:

Prior to my arrival, the frunk was open, and the body bag was unwrapped and opened to view the decedent. The decedent was dismembered and was inside a black body bag and a black trash bag. The decedent was severely decomposed, and there was decomposition fluid on the outside and inside of the bags. The decedent was female and had dark hair with decomposition fluid and insect activity. Also, insect activity was observed on the body and the body bag. The body bag had a double zipper, three handles on each length side, and a handle on the top and bottom width end. The body bag took

most of the frunk space. Inside the frunk, the body bag contained the decedent's head and torso in a prone position. The decedent's head pointed north, and her thighs pointed south. The trash bag was at the south end of the frunk, beneath the body bag. The trash bag was tied and contained the decedent's dismembered limbs (arms with hands and legs with feet). The decedent's arms were cut and removed at the bicep, and the legs were cut and removed above and below the knee. Before moving the body bag, the handles and zippers were swabbed. The body bag and trash bag were moved from the frunk and placed on a plastic sheet. The decedent was then removed from the bags and put on another plastic sheet. The decedent's left hand was missing the ring and pinky fingers.

The decedent was wearing a discolored tube top shirt, discolored underwear, black leggings, and black socks. The shirt appeared to have three cut artifacts. The leggings were cut around the knees, with the upper portion on the torso and the lower portions rolled down to both ankles and the feet. At the cut site of the right leg attached to the torso, there were small blue plastic pieces. Also, the legs and arms from the trash bag had small blue plastic pieces at the cut sites. [REDACTED]

Evidence Collected:

I collected the following items of evidence on September 8, 2025. They were released to ME Evidence Custodian A. Gonzalez on September 11, 2025, at 0933 hours (except insects, body bag, and trash bag). The insects were released to ME Evidence Custodian A. Gonzalez on September 11, 2025, at 0950 hours:

- Hair Kit – collected in a head hair kit, and packaged and sealed into a black biohazard bag
- Insects – collected in a plastic container with 70% alcohol and packaged and sealed into a Brown Paper Bag (BPB)

The following items were collected, packaged into an individual swab box, and sealed into the same Physical Evidence (PE) envelope:

- Swabs of the side handles of the body bag
- Swabs of the top handle of the body bag
- Swabs of the top zipper of the body bag
- Swabs of the bottom zipper of the body bag

The following items were cut from the body bag, packaged, and sealed individually into a PE envelope. The PE envelopes were then placed and sealed in the same black biohazard bag:

- Body bag top and bottom handles (x 2) – wrapped together in butcher paper
- Body bag side handles (x 6) – wrapped together in butcher paper
- Zipper (top) – placed in a coin envelope
- Zipper (bottom) – placed in a coin envelope

The following items were collected, wrapped in separate white paper bindles, and sealed individually into a PE envelope. The PE envelopes were then placed and sealed in the same black biohazard bag:

- Trace #1 – blue plastic pieces on the right leg attached to the torso
- Trace #2 – blue plastic pieces on the legs and arms

The following items were collected, placed into the same black biohazard bag, then placed into a BPB and sealed inside another black biohazard bag:

- Leggings (3 pieces)
- Underwear
- Shirt
- Socks (x2)

The following items were collected, placed, and sealed in the same black biohazard double bag. Detective J. Byers authorized the disposal of the bags on September 18, 2025, at 1244 hours:

- Body bag
- Trash bag

Additional information:

Clothing photographed by Investigator K. Tapia on September 9, 2025, during the scene processing.

Criminalist: O. Pleitez



Date of Report: 10/24/25

Technical Reviewer: M. Santana

Approved on: 02/13/26

Administrative Reviewer:



Approved on: 3/4/26